General Assembly

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Agenda item 114 (*f*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/63/L.41 and Add.1)*]

63/143. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/10 of 26 October 1999, by which it granted observer status to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and considered it mutually advantageous to provide for cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, as well as its resolutions 59/21 of 8 November 2004 and 61/223 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular of Chapter VIII, that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa,

Considering that the activities of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries complement and support the work of the United Nations,

Welcoming the celebration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for the third consecutive year, of Portuguese Language Day, on 23 June 2008,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the outcome of the seventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, held in Lisbon on 24 and 25 July 2008, which recognizes the economic value of the Portuguese language and the political commitment to promote it in the international and regional organizations and United Nations agencies and programmes;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* with the strengthening of cooperation between the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the specialized agencies and other bodies and programmes of the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

3. *Welcomes* the signature of a cooperation agreement between the Executive Secretariat of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Portuguese Language Unit of the Radio and Television Service of the Department of

Public Information of the Secretariat, in New York on 25 April 2008, regarding the exchange of information and cooperation to organize initiatives to promote cultural diversity within the Portuguese-speaking countries;

4. *Also welcomes* the signature of a cooperation agreement between the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries on 8 November 2007, on combating rural poverty in Portuguese-speaking developing countries, as well as the work done by the Executive Secretariat of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, within the framework of the technical cooperation project signed in May 2008 with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which aims at the formulation of a South-South and North-South cooperation programme for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[1]

5. *Further welcomes* the establishment of the partnership between the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries and the International Labour Organization Office in Lisbon, which aims at the creation of an interactive platform for the Governments of the Portuguese-speaking countries to exchange information and experiences within the scope of social protection, decent work, monitoring of labour standards and working conditions, and the fight against child labour;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the signature, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 5 November 2008, of a cooperation agreement between the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the secretariat of the Convention, with a view to developing joint actions in the fields of combating desertification, land degradation, drought mitigation, water scarcity and poverty;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to initiate consultations with a view to considering the establishment of a formal cooperation agreement;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries".

68th plenary meeting
11 December 2008

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.